



December 13, 2004

Mayor Ron Gonzales &
Members of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force
San Jose City Hall
801 North 1st Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Mayor Gonzales and Members of the Task Force:

Greenbelt Alliance has maintained from the beginning that the South Coyote Valley Greenbelt can be home to viable agriculture, wildlife habitat and passive recreation while also serving as a non-urban buffer between San Jose and Morgan Hill. It is great to now see some of the results of the planning that have gone into making this a reality.

The urban design of Coyote Valley is extremely important and could put San Jose on the map as a model for smart growth if the outdated design principles that lead to sprawl are forgotten. However, the South Coyote Valley Greenbelt is just as important as the urban design component and deserves just as much attention. As the Task Force has been asked to look at the locations of schools and parks, the various architectural styles of schools and the number of students each school should accommodate, the environmental community expects the same level of detail for the South Coyote Valley Greenbelt.

Several weeks ago, Greenbelt Alliance listed six principles that need to be addressed in order for the South Coyote Valley Greenbelt to be a success. Perhaps, the most important of these is

'A strategic acquisition plan, using both easements and fee title purchases, should be developed to secure as much of the Greenbelt as possible as permanently protected agricultural land. To help ensure the viability of agriculture in the Greenbelt, the acquisition of large parcels, as well as smaller parcels that are contiguous to one another, should be prioritized.'

This would need to come before setting up an organization that promotes the greenbelt, before establishing design guidelines and before deciding on the types of recreation facilities that are appropriate. First, the following questions will need to be answered:


- How will land be purchased in the greenbelt?
- Which parcels have been identified as the first to be purchased?
- Who will purchase the land?
- How much will it cost to purchase this land?
- Who will have the overall responsibility of overseeing this acquisition program?

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When we have answers to these questions, then perhaps we'll be at the same level of specificity as the urban design component.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to creating a viable Greenbelt which will add to the overall quality of life for those who will live in Coyote Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michele Beasley". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping tail.

Michele Beasley
South Bay Field Representative